DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sankaranarayana Pillai, in regard to the question of removing of liquor shops from municipal limits, I am afraid the question is one affecting the municipalities in general and cannot be pronounced upon until we have made experiments and seen what degree of success attends upon our efforts in respect of one municipality. We have selected Changanachery as the seat of the experiment and I have no doubt that in the course of a year or two we will be in a position to say definitely how the experiment works, whether local option justified itself and satisfied the people as a whole.

In the matter of education, I shall see what the present position is in respect to the girls' schools.

As for raising the grant to the municipality, I shall examine the present financial position of the municipality and see what schemes they have in mind and how they propose to spend money and then, if circumstances justify we will see whether an additional grant should be given to the municipality. In regard to empowering the municipality to control motor traffic within municipal limits, the question is beset with all the difficulties that generally arise from duality of control. I shall consult the Commissioner of Police and see whether it is possible for the two bodies, the Government police and the municipal establishment to work together without conflict or confusion.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1-55 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

79. Needs of the Padmanabhapuram municipality.

MR. MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN (*Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) said that there was no proper accommodation for the municipal office at Padmanabhapuram. The office was at present accommodated in the Sanitary Inspector's office. This was a dark and dingy building unfit for human habitation. The council had therefore resolved recently to construct a new building for the office. Though the financial condition of the municipality was not very good, they could somehow manage to provide a building, if Government gave them the required site. The site of the telephone office at Thuckalai now in the possession of the Public Works Department was in more ways than one a suitable site for putting up the municipal office. The Public Works Department could easily locate the telephone office in the Sub-Division Office.

The Padmanabhapuram municipality was a minor municipality. Many of the activities pertaining to municipal administration could not be attended to by the municipality for want of funds. It would be a great help to the municipality if Government either enhanced its grant or permitted the municipality to open a toll-gate on the Kumaracoil village road.

In the matter of making nominations to the municipal council, Government might first consult the municipal president who would be in a position to recommend proper persons.

Scarcity of drinking water, particularly in the hot season, was a source of great trouble to the people of Thuckalai as well as to the travellers halting there on the way to Nagercoil. If a channel was opened from the Thiruvithancode channel at Parakode near the 32nd mile stone of the M. S. Road to Valliyar, as many as six tanks at Thuckalai would get good water and there would no longer be any scarcity of drinking water at the place.

For the maintenance of the roads in the Padmanabhapuram municipality, Government were annually allotting a certain amount and placing it with the Public Works Department. But the department was not spending the whole amount. The roads in the municipality were therefore in a bad condition. If the annual allotment was transferred to the municipality, they would make the necessary repairs and keep the roads in good condition. If this was not feasible, Government should see that the amounts annually allotted were spent regularly.

A veterinary hospital at Thuckalai was a pressing necessity. The nearest veterinary hospitals were at Nagercoil and Kuzhithurai, each 12 and 10 miles away from Thuckalai. People could not be expected to take their cattle to such distant places for treatment.

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In regard to the night schools in the municipality, the Education Code might be suitably amended so as to permit boys below 18 years of age being admitted into them.

In conclusion the member expressed regret that the Dewan had not visited Padmanabhapuram yet and he invited him to visit the place at the earliest opportunity.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Muhammad Hussain, concerning your last request I may say that I have twice visited Padmanabhapuram. I have been all over the place within the Fort. I have also seen the tank just outside the walls, the Palace, the whole buildings, in fact every part of the town. The only thing is that I came unknown to the general public.

In regard to the location of the municipal office on the site of the present telephone office at Thuckalai, the Chief Engineer and the member may visit Thuckalai and see whether they can come to some arrangement by which a site can be found for the municipal office.

The municipality is already receiving the maximum grant from Government. For the present, at any rate, I can give you the assurance that Government do not propose to reduce the grant.

As regards the opening of a toll gate, it is not the policy of Government to have any more municipal toll gates in any part of the State.

As regards the nomination of members to the municipal council, you did not hear what I said in connection with the representation made by the member who represents the Colachel municipality. I will see that only qualified persons and persons living within municipal limits are nominated to the municipal councils as far as possible.

In the matter of opening up a channel, the Chief Engineer reports that no sluice should be put up in the Tiruvankode channel as it would be detrimental to the distribution of water to the lower lands in the Eraniel branch channel. But some water from the syphon and upper reaches in Tiruvancode finds its way just near the 32nd mile M. S. road. Is that what you mean ?

MEMBER: Yes.

DEWAN: The matter needs looking into carefully.

Do you want water for drinking purposes or for agricultural purposes ?

MEMBER: Drinking water.

DEWAN: Well, water comes from Pechippara. It is fit only for agricultural purposes and not for drinking purposes. I do not think you can utilise it for drinking purposes.

The maintenance of roads within municipal limits has a history all its own. Government were prepared to hand over minor roads to your municipality on the usual terms offered to other municipalities. But the municipality was not prepared to accept those terms. They wanted special terms. So the Government went out of its way and after consideration offered the entire P. W. maintenance for the first year and 75 per cent for the next four years. Even that they would not have. They wanted the whole thing for the first five years or nothing at all. Government were not prepared to give a larger amount and the municipality did not receive what they wanted.

As regards the veterinary hospital you want, I shall consult the Director of Agriculture in the matter.

In regard to the amendment of the night schools rules, the Director of Public Instruction is prepared to consider again the question of a lower minimum age limit below 18. I think we might consider 16 as suitable age.

That covers all your points.

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